

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 09546 260841Z
ACTION H-03

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SS-00 AF-00 DS-01 DSE-00
/005 W

-----224322 261202Z /48 38

R 260840Z JUN 08
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2094
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 09546

FROM RSO

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ASEC, OREP, SF
SUBJECT: THREAT ASSESSMENT - STAFFDEL HOLLIDAY

REF: STATE 194968

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. ALL VISITORS TO SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD READ THE DEPART-
MENT ISSUED TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WAS
DISSEMINATED AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF THE STATE OF EMER-
GENCY (SOE) IN JUNE 1986.

3. THE SOE PROCLAMATION HAS GIVEN VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS
POWERS OF ARREST AND DETENTION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN
POLICE (SAP) AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCES (SADF).
INDIVIDUALS DEEMED TO BE A THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT,
INCLUDING POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, UNION LEADERS, AND
JOURNALISTS, WERE ROUNDED UP BY THE THOUSANDS AND HELD
INCOMMUNICADO. NO WARRANTS OF ARREST OR SPECIFIC CHARGES
WERE NECESSARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 09546 260841Z

4. ONE OF THE MAJOR THREATS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS
RESIDENT IN OR VISITING SOUTH AFRICA LIES IN TRAVEL WITHIN
BLACK TOWNSHIPS. INCIDENTS OF A RELATIVELY MINOR NATURE,
I.E., ROCK THROWING, CAN QUICKLY ESCALATE INTO A FULL
BLOWN RIOT REQUIRING SAP AND/OR SADF INTERVENTION.

5. ANOTHER THREAT TO AMERICANS IS SIMPLY BEING CAUGHT IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME. BOMBINGS OF PUBLIC FACILITIES ARE RATHER FREQUENT WITH THE MAIN TARGETS BEING MILITARY/GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RECENT INCIDENTS, HOWEVER, IN WHICH A SHOPPING CENTER, A BUS STOP, AND A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT WERE TARGETS OF BOMB ATTACKS. THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANY OF THE BOMBINGS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE MOST COMMONLY USED DEVICE IS A LIMPET MINE OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN. WHILE AMERICANS HAVE NOT BEEN THE TARGETS OF BOMBINGS OR TOWNSHIP VIOLENCE, THEY COULD BECOME VICTIMS OF RANDOM VIOLENCE OR COULD BECOME INVOLVED IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS BY NOT HEEDING SIMPLE, COMMON SENSE PRECAUTIONS.

6. COMMON CRIME IS STILL THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THREAT FACING AMERICANS IN SOUTH AFRICA. ECONOMIC TIMES, ASSOCIATED WITH ALREADY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, ARE DIFFICULT WITH THE RESULT THAT INCIDENTS OF ROBBERIES, MUGGINGS, AND HOUSE AND CAR BURGLARIES ARE INCREASING.

7. IN THIS REGARD, ALL VISITORS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD) OF JOHANNESBURG, WHERE SEVERAL RECENT ASSAULTS AND ROBBERIES HAVE OCCURRED. VISITORS SHOULD NOT TRAVEL ALONE AT NIGHT AND SHOULD TELL OTHER MEMBERS OF THEIR PARTY WHERE THEY WILL BE GOING AND WHEN THEY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 09546 260841Z

WILL BE RETURNING. LARGE SUMS OF MONEY SHOULD NOT BE CARRIED AND VALUABLE ITEMS OF JEWELRY SHOULD NOT BE WORN WHEN WALKING THE STREETS OF JOHANNESBURG. COMMON SENSE, AS PRACTICED WHILE VISITING ANY LARGE CITY IN THE WORLD, SHOULD BE THE RULE OF THUMB WHILE VISITING THE LARGER CITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA. BARKLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HOLIDAY, STAFFDEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 08PRETOR09546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D870507-0166
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806110/aaaabgst.tel
Line Count: 135
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: c7bfc97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 87 STATE 194968
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2172693
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> rsh 970103
Subject: THREAT ASSESSMENT - STAFFDEL HOLLIDAY
TAGS: ASEC, OREP, SF
To: JOHANNESBURG STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7bfc97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014